

**New Hampshire Department of Education's  
Analysis of Select Data Sets from  
the New England Secondary School Consortium's  
Common Data Project's 2015 Reported Data**

**High School Graduation  
Postsecondary Enrollment  
and College Readiness**

**December 8, 2015**

New Hampshire Department of Education  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord NH 03301

The New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) brings together state leaders and educators from the states of Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Consortium has adopted **Four Goals**:

- Increase high school graduation rates across each of our five states.
- Decrease the annual high school dropout rate.
- Increase the percentage of students enrolling in two- and four-year college degree programs or pursuing accredited, industry-certified postsecondary certificates.
- Increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college.

and together they pursue three overarching strategies:

**Policy:** Advancing a state-led policy agenda focused on three critical, high-leverage areas of schooling in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: proficiency-based graduation decisions, personalized learning pathways, and more effective accountability systems.

**Practice:** Connecting and supporting practicing educators across our states through networking activities, best-practice exchange, and the League of Innovative Schools.

**Public Will:** Strengthening public understanding of innovative approaches to educating today's students.

NESSC annually publishes *Common Data Project Annual Reports*, usually in December. Since 2009 the NESSC Data Team has developed shared data definitions and compiled a substantial amount of data, only some of which appears in the annual report.

The New Hampshire Department of Education has prepared four additional tables using NESSC data. The first table below is based on the same data New Hampshire uses for its annual graduation report. The other three tables are data not previously reported by New Hampshire. Two of the tables (2 and 3) use data sets collected by NESSC but not published in the annual data report. Each table includes an analysis from a New Hampshire perspective. If you have questions about these tables please contact [sallie.fellows@nh.gov](mailto:sallie.fellows@nh.gov).

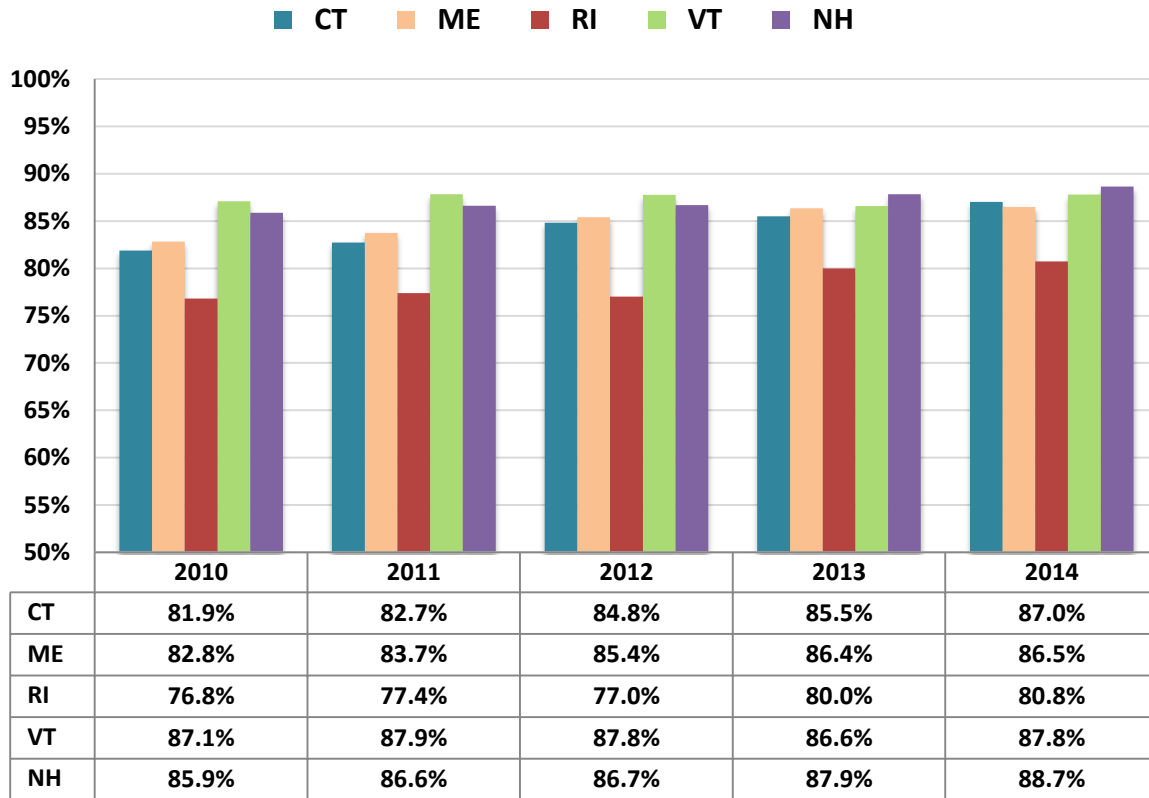
You can find a link to this report at <http://www.education.nh.gov/data/nessc-reports.htm>. Other New Hampshire data reports are at <http://www.education.nh.gov/data/index.htm>.

More information about the NESSC, including links to NESSC annual data reports, can be found at [http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ne\\_secondary.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ne_secondary.htm).

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

## On-Time Graduation Rates: All Students



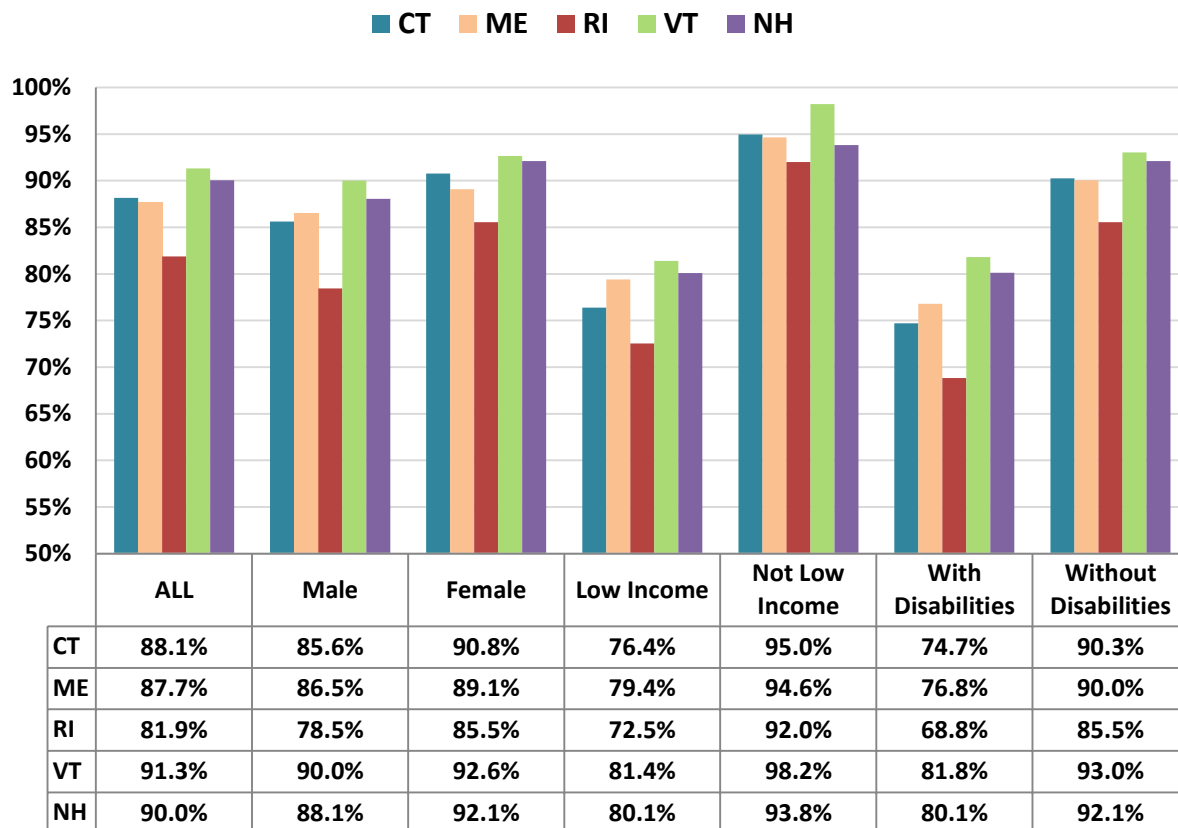
*Table 1*

*On-time* graduation means earning a standard high school diploma within 4 years. This definition does not count students who earn a GED or an alternative credential requiring less than the state's minimum course and achievement requirements for a standard diploma. Also, on-time does not count students who earn a standard diploma but need a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year to do so.

- Over the past 5 years, all NESSC states have seen an increase in the on-time graduation rate. Rate increases ranged from 0.7% to 5.1%.
- 2014 rates ranged from 80.8% to 88.7%.
- From 2010 through 2012, NH's rate was second only to VT. In 2013 and 2014, NH had the highest on-time graduation rate.
- NH's graduation rate improved dramatically from 81.0% in 2009 to 85.9% in 2010. This coincided with implementation of dropout legislation passed in 2007. The dropout age was raised from 16 to 18. Sixteen and seventeen year olds uncomfortable with the traditional high school program now have individualized plans which utilize educational learning objectives leading to either a regular diploma or a GED. Since 2010 the rate has continued to improve.

Notes: Graduation rates include only standard diploma graduates, not GED recipients. This chart used the same data NH publishes in its annual graduation report.

## Percentage of Students Entering High School in the Fall of 2008 and Graduating Within 6 Years

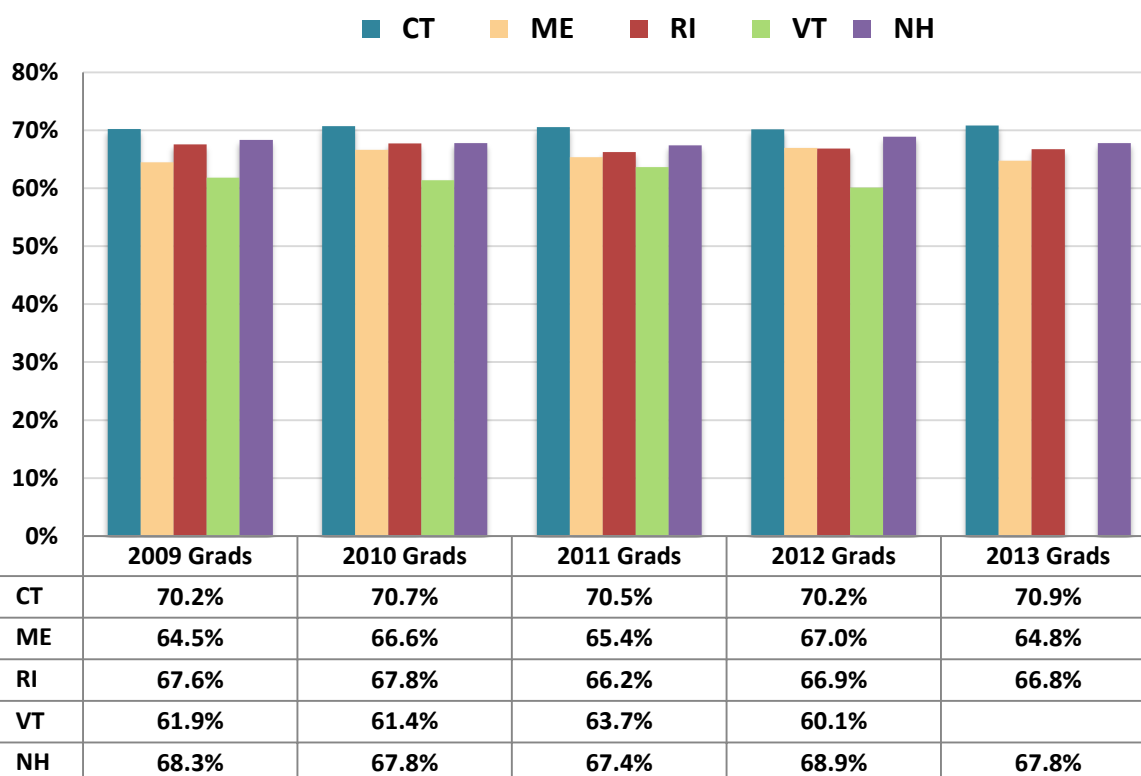


**Table 2**

*Graduation means earning a standard high school diploma. This definition does not count students who earn a GED or an alternative credential requiring less than the state's minimum course and achievement requirements for a standard diploma. This chart includes all students who earned a high school diploma, including students who needed a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year to do so.*

- Not all students who graduate from high school do so within 4 years.
- When those students who graduated in their 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year are added to the class of 2012 on-time graduates, the rates increase. For ALL Students, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students added: 3.3% to CT, 2.3% to ME, 4.9% to RI, 3.6% to VT, and 3.3% to NH.
- For Students with Disabilities, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students added: 10.3% to CT, 6.4% to ME, 10.4% to RI, 11.0% to VT, and 7.7% to NH.
- For Low Income students (those eligible for free/reduced price school lunch), the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students added: 5.9% to CT, 8.7% to ME, 7.0% to RI, 4.2% to VT, and 6.9% to NH.
- VT had the highest rate for ALL Students and all the sub-groups.
- NH ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the Not Low Income sub-group. In all other categories, NH tied VT or was a very close second.

## Postsecondary Enrollment of High School Graduates within 2 years: All Students



**Table 3**

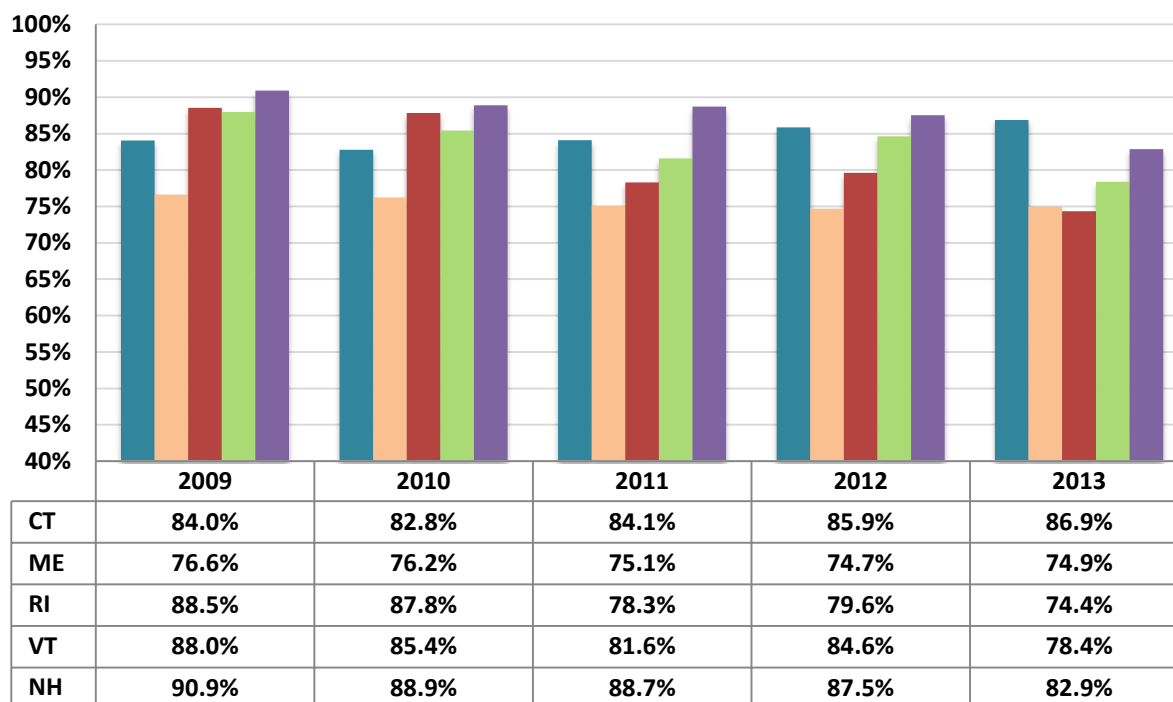
*To identify students enrolled in 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions, each NESSC state submits a list of graduates to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). NSC uses name, date of birth, and other variables (when provided) to verify enrollment. Rates include full and part-time students enrolled in 2-year and 4-year institutions for at least 10 days prior to August 15<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer following graduation. The Data Team has refined the definition for this statistic and revised the 2009-2012 data reported last year.*

- Rates do not include students who enrolled in programs lasting less than 2 years or enlisted in the armed services. These two categories account for an estimated 6%-7% of New Hampshire graduates. (Source: NH's Completers by Category report.)
- There has been no significant change to these rates over the last four years.
- Percentages shown should be considered the minimum. Actual rates are likely higher.

Notes: The percentage identified as enrolled is dependent on the accuracy of data provided by colleges, the number of match variables provided by the NESSC states and the colleges, and other factor. For example, NSC will not report a match if a graduate's data matches more than one college student. This can occur with common names unless a social security number or high school attended has been provided by both the state and the college.

**College Ready: All Students**  
(Enrolled one year after first entering college.)

■ CT   ■ ME   ■ RI   ■ VT   ■ NH



**Table 4**

*The NESSC Data Team identified the following measure as an indicator of College Readiness for students attending 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions - “Completion of 24 credit hours of college coursework and a GPA of 2.5 OR enrollment in the third semester of college.” Credit and GPA data is not available, but National Student Clearinghouse enrollment status has been used for this report.*

- The definition for this statistic has been simplified to look at enrollment status one year after initial enrollment, rather than attempting to track continuous enrollment. The cohort consists of students entering college for the first time in the year shown and who graduated from high school during the previous 3 years. The 2009-2012 data reported last year has been revised.
- This graph shows the percentage of students enrolled one year after first entering college. (Students need not be enrolled at the same school to be counted.)
- While Connecticut’s rate has improved over the last three years, the other states show declines.
- When New Hampshire’s 2013 freshmen cohort is compared to the 2012 cohort, fewer remained enrolled after one year. About same percentage (16%) was enrolled at 2-year schools, but the percentage enrolled at 4-year schools dropped from 72% to 67%.
- A break in enrollment can be for financial or personal reasons, not necessarily a lack of academic preparation.
- The percentages shown should be considered a minimum. (See explanation on Table 3.)